

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A protective dust jacket cover, comprising:

a dust jacket cover formed of a transparent front sheet and a back sheet, the dust jacket cover having at least three sealed sides ~~and an opening adjacent one side communicating with a dust jacket-receiving space;~~

an opening formed in one of the front sheet and the back sheet, the opening communicating with a dust jacket-receiving space;

a foldable flap formed adjacent to the opening ~~and extending~~ being formed from at least one of the front sheet or the back sheet ~~beyond the other of the front or back sheets;~~ and

~~an~~ a first adhesive layer formed on a portion of the surface of the foldable flap and a second adhesive layer formed opposite the first adhesive layer, the foldable flap being adapted to be folded over the opening such that the first adhesive layer contacts the opening to seal a dust jacket within the dust jacket-receiving space.

2. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 1, further comprising a protective strip removably disposed over the adhesive layer.

3. Cancelled.

4. Cancelled.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 1, wherein the opening ~~side~~ is formed adjacent a top end of the dust jacket cover and extends substantially along the width of the one of the first layer and the second layer.

7. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 6, wherein a bottom end and opposed sides of the protective dust jacket are sealed.

8. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 6, wherein the front and back sheets are integral with one another and the ~~sealed~~ bottom end is formed by a fold between the front and back sheets.

9. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 8, wherein the opposed ~~side ends~~ sides of the dust jacket cover are heat sealed.

10. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 1, wherein the dust jacket-receiving space is impermeable to air, water, moisture, and pests when the foldable flap is closed and adhered.

11. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 1, wherein the dust jacket is made from a flexible polymeric material.

12. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 11, wherein the polymeric material is resistant to infrared and ultraviolet light.

13. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 11, wherein the polymeric material is a polyolefin.

14. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 1, wherein each of the ~~outer~~ front sheet and the ~~inner~~ back sheet have a thickness in the range of about 1 to about 1.4 mils.

15. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 14, wherein the ~~outer~~ front and ~~inner~~ back sheets have substantially the same thickness.

16. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 14, wherein the ~~outer~~ front and back ~~inner~~ sheets have different thicknesses.

17. (Currently amended) A protective dust jacket cover, comprising:  
a dust jacket cover formed of a transparent ~~front~~ sheet folded to form front and back portions ~~and a back sheet~~, the dust jacket cover having a dust jacket-receiving opening formed in and extending along one of the front and back portions ~~at least a portion of one of the front and back sheets~~, the opening communicating with a dust jacket-receiving space defined by the ~~outer~~ front and back ~~inner sheets~~ portions;  
a foldable flap formed adjacent to the dust jacket-receiving opening;  
a first adhesive layer formed on at least one of the front and back sheets in proximity to the dust jacket-receiving opening and a second adhesive layer formed opposite the first adhesive layer; and  
a protective strip removably disposed over the first and second adhesive ~~layer~~ layers, such that upon removal of the protective strip to expose the first and second adhesive ~~layer~~ layers, the front and back ~~sheets~~ portions are able to be adhered to each other to close the dust jacket-receiving opening and seal a dust cover within the dust jacket-receiving space.

18. Cancelled.

19. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim ~~48~~ 17, wherein the opposed side ends of the dust jacket cover are heat sealed.

20. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 19, wherein the front and back sheets are heat sealed at a top end of the dust jacket cover adjacent to the opening.

21. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 19, wherein the opening is a slit formed in the ~~inner sheet~~ front portion adjacent at least a portion of one of the opposed side ends, ~~the~~ a top end or ~~the~~ a bottom end.

22. (Currently amended) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 19, wherein the opening is a slit formed in the ~~back sheet~~ back portion adjacent to ~~the~~ a top end of the dust jacket cover and the foldable flap is disposed above the slit.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.

25. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 17, wherein the dust jacket-receiving space is impermeable to air, water, moisture, and pests when the foldable flap is closed and adhered.

26. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 17, wherein the dust jacket is made from a flexible polymeric material.

27. (Original) The protective dust jacket cover of claim 26, wherein the polymeric material is resistant to infrared and ultraviolet light.

28. (Withdrawn) A method of protecting a dust cover of a book, comprising:

providing a dust jacket protective cover formed of front and back sheets having at least three sealed ends and a dust jacket-receiving opening communicating with a dust jacket-receiving space;

inserting a dust jacket through the opening of the dust jacket protective cover; and  
sealing the open end to hermetically seal the dust jacket within the dust jacket-receiving space.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the dust jacket protective cover has a foldable flap adjacent to the opening.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the foldable flap includes a first adhesive layer, formed on an inner surface thereof, covered by a removable protective strip.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the foldable flap includes a second adhesive layer, formed on a front surface thereof, covered by a removable protective strip.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of sealing is accomplished by removing the protective strip from the first adhesive layer, folding the foldable flap over the opening, and adhering the foldable flap to a portion of the back sheet.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of sealing further comprises folding the foldable flap a second time to adjust the height of the dust jacket protective cover to the height of the dust jacket, removing the protective strip from the second adhesive layer and adhering the second adhesive layer to a portion of the back sheet.